

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-12 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-12 have been rejected. By the above amendment, Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1-12 are now pending in this application.

The amended Claims 1 and 9 clearly recite the subject matter of the present invention and further distinguish features of the present invention from the cited references. All of the amendments can be supported by the specification and figures of the present application as originally filed, and therefore there is no new matter is added therein.

Objections to the Specification

Within the Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure has been objected to. By the above amendment, the first sentence of the abstract has been deleted, per the suggestion within the Office Action. Accordingly, the language of the abstract is clear and concise.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,461,279 to Hasegawa (hereinafter "Hasegawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,075,320 to Winsor (hereinafter "Winsor"). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As recited in the amended Claim 1, the present invention comprises a cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp comprising an enclosure chamber sealed by two reciprocally parallel plates of glass and containing a gas therein, an anode and a cathode disposed in the enclosure chamber, wherein the cathode is parallel to the anode, an auxiliary anode disposed between the anode and the cathode and being parallel to the cathode, wherein the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either the plates of glass, and a first distance between said auxiliary anode and said cathode is smaller than a second distance between said auxiliary anode and said anode, and a printed circuit board having the anode, the cathode and the auxiliary anode thereon.

It is to be noted that **the auxiliary anode** of the present invention is **near the cathode and connected to a printed circuit board**, so that the auxiliary anode of the present invention **has a voltage for attracting electrons emitted from the cathode to prevent light-vibration.** [Present Specification, page 6, lines 9-12]

However, the auxiliary electrode of the present invention is different from the auxiliary electrode of Hasegawa. The following clarifications should be emphasized: (1) Hasegawa's two discharge electrodes and the auxiliary electrode are **not** installed in one printed circuit board, (2) **there are not any leads or pins for Hasegawa's auxiliary electrode 18 to get a voltage**, so that Hasegawa's auxiliary electrode has **no voltage applied thereon**; (3) currently, it is well-known for one skilled in the art that Hasegawa's auxiliary electrode 18 having no voltage is made of a copper film and is extendedly disposed from the cathode to the anode, so that a field is induced for facilitating uniform luminance; and (4) Hasegawa's auxiliary electrode has no voltage applied thereon and is kept in a floating status, so that **Hasegawa's auxiliary electrode cannot solve the light-vibration problems**. Hence, with regard to the comments within the Office Action that Hasegawa's auxiliary electrode is an auxiliary anode, the Applicant respectfully disagrees.

It is to be further emphasized that the auxiliary anode of the present invention is disposed near the cathode for attracting electrons emitted from the cathode to prevent light-vibration; however, Hasegawa's auxiliary electrode is extended from the cathode to the anode and has no voltage applied thereon. The disposition and functions of the auxiliary anode of the present invention is definitely different from those of Hasegawa's auxiliary electrode.

With regard to the comments within the Office Action that Winsor teaches all electrodes connected to a printed circuit board, the Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cathode, anode and the auxiliary anode of the present invention are disposed on **one** circuit board; however, the electrodes 72, 74 taught by Winsor are respectively connected to printed circuit boards 112, 114. [Winsor, col. 6, lines 44-47] Winsor does not teach electrodes disposed on one printed circuit board.

Accordingly, even by combining Hasegawa and Winsor, a cold cathode fluorescent lamp including an enclosure chamber sealed by two reciprocally parallel plates of glass and containing a gas therein, an anode and a cathode disposed in the enclosure chamber, wherein the cathode is parallel to the anode, an auxiliary anode disposed between the anode and the cathode and being parallel to and near the cathode, wherein the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either the plates of glass, and a printed circuit board having the anode, the cathode and the auxiliary anode thereon can not be achieved.

The present invention, as claimed, cannot be achieved by the combination of the two cited references. Furthermore, neither Hasegawa nor Winsor teach an auxiliary electrode as the auxiliary anode of the present invention provided for preventing light vibration.

For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Hasegawa, Winsor and their combination.

Claims 4-6 and 8 are all dependent on the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Hasegawa, Winsor and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 4-6 and 8 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 9 is directed to a structure of a field emission electrode adapted to be used for a cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp. The structure of Claim 9 comprises an anode, a cathode being parallel to said anode and an auxiliary anode disposed between said anode and said cathode and being parallel to said cathode, wherein said auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of a chamber of said cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp, wherein the anode, the cathode and the auxiliary anode are on a printed circuit board and a first distance between said auxiliary anode and said cathode is smaller than a second distance between said auxiliary anode and said anode. As described above, neither Hasegawa, Winsor nor their combination teach that a first distance between the auxiliary anode and the cathode is smaller than a second distance between the auxiliary anode and the anode. Further, as described above, neither Hasegawa, Winsor nor their combination teach that the anode, the cathode and the auxiliary anode are on a printed circuit board. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Hasegawa, Winsor and their combination.

Within the Office Action, Claims 2, 3, 7 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa in view of Winsor and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,767,965 to Yamano (hereinafter "Yamano"). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claims 2, 3 and 7 are all dependent on the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Hasegawa, Winsor and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 2, 3 and 7 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 10-12 are all dependent on the independent Claim 9. As discussed above, the independent Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Hasegawa Winsor and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 10-12 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: June 14, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

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